The Snake Dance or Snail Trail Dance

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Getting the people on the floor at the start of a dance is often difficult. When I do father-daugher dances or do gigs at elementary schools, secondary schools and high schools this dance gimmick almost always works. I call it a **Snake Dance**. Jerry Hardy calls it a **Snail Trail Dance**. Basically, It is a chain or train of dancers being led around the floor any place you want to walk.

The game is to eventually end up a a spiral that grows smaller and smaller. To get out of the spiral back to a big circle, the leader has to just turn around and head the other way. I reserve this gimmick for gigs where I have a large dance area.

Here are two YouTube videos of how Gerry and I each do the dance:

Cal's version — Click here. The dance starts about 1.5 minutes into the seminar.

Gerry's version — Click here.

When you do this dance and you have a lot of dancers hooked in the chain, it can take a lot of time. You need a piece of music that is at least six minutes long and it helps if the recording is a medley. I like to pick out music where people are likely to know the words to the music.

A couple of years ago I found a CD named **"Party Dance II"** by Morganstein Productions that had two medleys that I have used several time for the Snake Dance. Click here to go to the Amazon.com URL for the MP3s.

The first medley (Track 15) is composed of march music, (It's A Grand Old Flag, Yankee Doodle-Dandy, The Caissons Go Rolling, Anchors Away, Marine's Hymn, The Wild Blue Yonder, Semper Paradas, Stars & Stripes Forever, God Bless America). The second medley (Track 14) is a Party Mix (If My Friends Could See Me Now, Happy Days Are Here Again, California Here I Come, When The Saints Come Marching In, Hey Look Me Over, Hail-Hail The Gangs All Here). Both medleys are played at 120 BPM and work very will for for a Snake Dance. Each of these tracks can be downloaded for $.99 each.

You might also want to listen to several other tunes on the CD that can be used for other dances. The whole album is $8.99 for 19 tracks of music.